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Global
Disability
Innovation
Hub



Transforming
Energy
Access

Designing an Inclusive Energy Innovation Network – What Works in Practice?

A case study prepared under the Disability Support Service (DSS), Transforming Energy Access (TEA) platform.



Inclusion is often framed as a social objective, but this collaboration taught us that it's also a systems design challenge. It shifted our perspective from seeing inclusion as an additional layer of support to understanding it as a core design principle for sustainable energy access, education, and community development."

Charles Bradshaw-Smith, SmartKlub

Drawing on the networks and knowledge of the **AT2030 programme**, funded by UK International Development, GDI Hub facilitated **eight innovation partnerships** between energy access and disability innovators. This case study captures the early insights and demonstrates how intentional network design can unlock new pathways for delivering inclusive energy access.



Intervention

- **18+ facilitated partner discussions** to deepen mutual understanding, identify areas of alignment, and explore collaboration opportunities.
- **3 ecosystem-level peer learning sessions**, including an ideathon and opportunity-spotlighting sessions.
- **Ongoing advisory support and technical inputs** to help partners navigate sector-specific challenges and identify collaboration pathways.
- A **LinkedIn group**, which now has over 130 members, enables continued engagement and relationship-building.



Impact

- **Over 100 individuals** engaged through webinars and drop-in sessions, and **16 energy access and assistive technology innovators** were directly supported through structured pairing and collaboration.
- Emerging outputs include **inclusive training pilots, early solution concepts, and initial pathways** for joint funding and implementation.

Clean energy actors have begun to see inclusion as integral to programme design, while assistive technology actors are identifying new applications within energy transition contexts.



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